

CHRISTIAN STATESMAN

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No. 4

"Christian," They Say

R. H. MARTIN

With the above heading the following editorial appeared in the April 1st issue of the United Evangelical Action, official organ of the National Association of Evangelicals, which we heartily endorse:

"President Eisenhower's tribute to the Christian antecedents of America, at the American Legion's 'Back to God' rally, and Chief Justice Warren's assertion that America is a Christian nation, before the Washington Conference on Christian Leadership, are most encouraging. Yet recent trends in our national life revealed in the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Champaign School Case and the decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court in the Gideon Bible Case make these statements meaningless platitudes.

"We believe the time has come for America to restudy the doctrine of the Separation of Church and State, especially as it pertains to our public schools, to determine whether the law of the land requires the complete divorcement of Christianity from our national institutions. If it does, we face the loss of all that is richest and best in our national heritage."

That there has been a trend toward secularism in our national life in the past half century or more no informed person will deny. The recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court and that of the New Jersey Supreme Court on the issue of the Bible and Religion in our public schools, not only reveals this trend but goes far beyond it, giving it official sanction and if carried out logically in the light of the sus-

taining opinions of these courts, would not only exclude the Bible and Religion from our public schools, but from every department of our governmental life and make secularism the established religion of our nation by judicial decree.

One of the arguments the Courts used in support of their ruling in the above cases is our American doctrine of the separation of Church and State which they, mistakenly, declare requires the separation of Religion from the State and, therefore, from the public schools as an institution of the State. And, strange to say, not a few Christian people and some organizations made up largely of Christians, are giving support to this secular trend on the basis of their misinterpretation of this American doctrine. We believe, as the above editorial states, that the time has come for Americans to restudy this doctrine, especially as pertains to our public schools. Our forefathers who established it never intended it to separate the Bible and Religion from any of the States' institutions or from any department of our governmental life. What they intended by it was the prohibition of an "established church," an independence of Church and State, neither one controlling the other, but by no means the divorcement of Religion from the State.

Our U. S. Supreme Court, in 1892, handed down a decision in the Trinity Church Case in which it declared "This is a Christian Nation" and supported this in an opinion which is absolutely contrary to that of the courts cited on this school issue. Verily, there is need for a restudy of this doctrine.

Why I Am Against Liquor Advertising

Dr. Sam Morris—The Voice of Temperance in America

(Dr. Morris' testimony before the House and Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committees to prohibit the advertising of alcoholic beverages in Interstate Commerce.)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committees, I am Sam Morris. My address is San Antonio, Texas.

I am in favor of the legislation your committees now have under hearing to outlaw liquor advertising in newspapers, magazines, news reels, motion picture films, radio and television passing in Interstate Commerce for five reasons:

I.

It is Distorted, Deceptive and Dangerous

It is an accepted, scientifically established fact that ethyl alcohol in beer, wine, whiskey, gin, rum, etc., is a habit forming, narcotic, poisonous drug that beclouds the brain, depresses the nerve, distorts the vision, retards reactions, and releases the inhibitions.

Because of this narcosis effect, beverage alcohol has transformed multiplied thousands of citizens into dead beats and bums that populate the skid rows of our great cities. It causes great losses in manhours, mistakes and accidents in industry. It fills our hospitals with hopeless alcoholics. It causes men and women to commit every crime in the catalogue and to violate every moral precept proclaimed in the Bible. The use of beverage alcohol has undermined the happiness of millions of homes and brought great suffering and deprivation to millions of helpless loved ones. Its use is fraught with physical, mental, moral, domestic, and spiritual dangers. Millions of fine, useful, Christian citizens are violently opposed to its sale and use. But you would never get that impression by the way newspapers, magazines, movie reels, radio and television advertise, glamorize and glorify its use.

The advertisers of beverage alcohol utter no caution, sound no warning, and give no indication that there is ever any unpleasantness connected with its use. They glorify it with wholesome public acceptance, harmless refreshment, social courtesy, domestic tranquility and personal enjoyment. Such a one-sided glorification of this habit forming, narcotic, poisonous drug is dishonest, deceptive and dangerous and should be prohibited by law.

II.

It is Detrimental to the Public Good

The man who runs a grocery store, a dry goods store, a meat market, a hardware store, a furniture store, a lumber yard, a feed store, or who sells farm implements, gasoline, automobiles or real estate, that man sells a product that is useful to the community, needed in the community and beneficial to mankind.

But the man who sells beer, wine or whiskey sells a product in his community that not only is not beneficial to the community but is positively detrimental to the public good by causing traffic

deaths, moral declensions, criminal violence, domestic strife and social debauchery. His community would be far better off if not a drop of his product could be obtained in a thousand miles of his community. That being true, it irrefutably follows that the manufacture and sale of beverage alcohol is contrary to the public good. If the manufacture and sale of beverage alcohol is contrary to the public interest, then the advertising of beverage alcohol is contrary to public interest because it promotes the manufacture and sale of beverage alcohol.

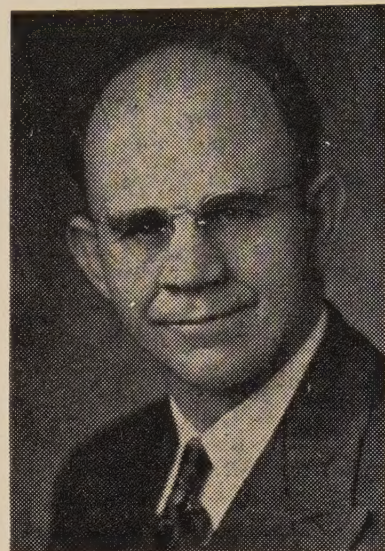
Now radio stations and television stations operate on frequencies that belong to the public; their use is provided free of cost to the licensees on the condition that the broadcasters will use them in the public interest. I contend that when those frequencies are used to promote the sale and use of beverage alcohol, it is not in the public interest and is a violation of their binding obligation and should be prohibited by law.

III.

It Usurps Public Owned Radio and Television Facilities

Under present day policies, the advertisers of beverage alcohol usurp public owned facilities and vital media to the practical exclusive use for one side in a controversial issue of great public importance.

The manufacture, the sale and the advertisement of beverage alcohol is a controversial issue of unparalleled magnitude. There are millions of American citizens who would vote tomorrow if given an opportunity for national prohibition. They deplore the promotion of the traffic and they hotly rebel at all of this one-sided, play-up and false glorification of beverage alcohol. They would like to have the truth about alcohol, the virtues of abstinence, and the reasons for prohibition to be presented to the public over those same radio and television facilities at equally favorable and regular periods. This is in keeping with the American, democratic,



tradition of free speech, fair play and equal opportunity on controversial issues.

But that privilege is denied. For twenty years it has been the over-all undeviating practice of radio networks and broadcasting stations, with few exceptions, to sell choice evening periods, daily or weekly, under commercial sponsorship to advertise, glamorize, and promote the beverage use of alcohol; but at the same time to refuse to sell any time whatever to the accredited, elected spokesmen of the temperance forces to present scientific truths about alcohol, to appeal for abstinence, and give the reasons for legally prohibiting the traffic in beverage alcohol. We have repeatedly sought to purchase broadcast time on the national networks and they have absolutely refused for fifteen years to sell even one period of network time for a prohibition talk to the American people on the liquor question.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, why denounce Communistic Russia for her iron curtain against democratic truth and yet tolerate here at home on radio and television an iron curtain against the scientific facts about alcohol, the plea for abstinence, and the appeal for prohibition?

If radio stations and networks are going to sell choice periods of time for extended commercial contracts to the liquor interests to promote the manufacture and sale of beverage alcohol and at the same time refuse to sell equally favorable times under extended contracts to the Christian forces of abstinence and prohibition, then I contend that this unfair, undemocratic, violation of the sacred tradition of fair play, free speech, and equal opportunity, for which millions of our sons have fought around the world, should be stopped by adopting the Bryson Bill into law and prohibiting the advertising of beverage alcohol over radio and television.

IV.

Liquor Advertising Flouts Established Law

To say that it is advertising a legal product is only a part truth. It is only legal in some sections. There are 142 counties in Texas where you can't legally buy beverage alcohol. There are 86 wholly dry counties in Kentucky. There are 64 in Georgia, 53 in Mississippi, 46 in Alabama, 39 in Arkansas, 38 in North Carolina; a thousand towns, townships and precincts in Illinois, between four and five hundred in Maine and various counties and political units in many other states. In these areas the people in open, free, untrammelled, democratic public elections went to the polls and voted it unlawful to sell beer, wine, whiskey or other alcoholic beverages in that locality. But radio and television know no geographical lines, no territorial limitations, and night after night at choice, regular periods, the advertisers of beverage alcohol come barging into the homes by the family firesides, and to men, women, and little children they glamorize, glorify and urge the use of a product that is illegal

and unlawful in that community. This does not encourage observance of the established law and when those same homes and listening audiences are absolutely shut off *on those same facilities* from hearing other speakers proclaim arguments and appeals that support those laws, it is an outrage. No wonder the Christian forces in all those areas have donned their fighting clothes and are demanding the adoption of the Bryson Bill to outlaw liquor advertising. They are sick and tired and disgusted with all this flouting of the established law, and what they have taught their sons and daughters with reference to beverage alcohol.

V.

Liquor Advertising Fosters Juvenile Delinquency

Don't try to argue with me that beverage alcohol is a legal product and therefore should be accorded all the rights and privileges of bread, clothes, ice cream, soda pop, chewing gum, toothpaste and hair tonic. In addition to the millions of people living in local option prohibition territory where they cannot purchase beverage alcohol legally, there are millions of American people all over the United States who cannot legally purchase alcoholic beverages. They are the teen-age youth of this country. It is unlawful to sell alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21 years of age in all but five states and they limit the sale at 18 years of age. That is not true of bread, meat, potatoes, chewing gum, soda pop, candy and ice cream. So, if you want to be honest and fair, don't talk to me about the legality of this product unless you specify the age and territorial limitations of that legality.

The purpose of liquor advertising is to promote acceptance, stimulate desire for, and increase its sales. The play-up of beverage alcohol in glorifying terms of goodness, affect children just the same, and perhaps to a greater degree than it does the mature, experienced adults. And for that reason I contend that liquor advertising fosters juvenile delinquency.

Right now we are wrestling with an ever growing mammoth problem of juvenile delinquency. There is a growing crime problem among the teen-age youth. It centers in the 10- to 17-year-old age group. The daily press, published surveys, police records show that it is linked with beverage alcohol. Beer parties, drinking escapades, abound on the part of teen-agers. Better Homes and Gardens for March reported a highly financed and scientifically conducted survey in Nassau County, New York, which revealed that 90 per cent of 29,000 high school students under 18 years of age drank. It revealed that they began drink by the time they were 16 years of age. Not a one of them could legally buy a bottle of beer for personal consumption, yet 90 per cent of them drank.

But ladies and gentlemen, what else can you ex-

(Continued on page 4)

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A HISTORICAL DECISION BANNING SEGREGATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

On May 17th, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down one of the most important decisions of its history, banning segregation in the public schools of our country. The fact that the ruling was unanimous gives added weight to it. Difficult problems remain in the application of this great Constitutional doctrine which the Court affirmed, but the basic law now has a firm foundation. Negro children in several states, in which segregation is permitted or required, sought entrance into schools in their community attended by white children on a non-segregation basis, and were denied admission.

Heretofore, by a ruling of the Supreme Court in the Plessy v. Ferguson Case in 1896, the Court said, the equal opportunity guaranteed all citizens by the Constitution was complied with, if the negro children were given equal facilities—as to buildings, textbook, teachers and equipment—in separate schools.

In this case, ruled on May 17th, the Court reversed this ruling. It declared segregation itself was an in-

equality. It put the stamp of inferiority upon the negro children.

This decision has been hailed as the greatest in the field of social relations since the decision of the Supreme Court, before the Civil War in the Dred Scott (a negro slave) Case, in which the Court said he was not a citizen, "just a piece of property." Some have likened it in importance to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Segregation is a hang-over from slavery and its ugliest manifestation has been in our schools. Rooted in a denial of human equality, it has always been a blight upon American life. Now, at last, this blight is on the way of removal. It comes at a time when this reaffirmation of basic human values will have wonderful uplifting effect. America is rid of an incubus which has impeded and embarrassed it in all its relations with the world. Abroad, as well as at home, it will engender a renewal of faith in democratic institutions and ideals.

The decision is a heavy blow to the communist propaganda machine at home and abroad. It will aid our nation and the free nations of the world in the struggle against Communism.

While the ruling is being decried by some of the southern states, it has been very generally approved throughout our own Country, and highly approved by most of the free nations of the world.

—R. H. M.

THE CHRISTIAN STATESMAN, MAY, 1953

The May 1953 issue of the Christian Statesman was a double-sized issue (16 pages), given over to a discussion of the place which the Bible and religion should have in our public schools. It was filled with factual material on many phases of this live and important subject. One thousand extra copies of this issue were published with a view to placing them in the hands of persons who are connected with or especially interested in our public schools. We have evidence from many sources that this issue is regarded highly.

A brief note with reference to the issue appeared in the Moody Magazine, advising the readers to secure copies of it. As a result, we received many orders for copies. On request, we sent copies to a number of prominent persons, one to Governor Howard Pyle of Arizona. We received from the Governor the following letter:

"I am deeply grateful to you for sending me the copy of The Christian Statesman. This is exceptionally well compiled and I have enjoyed reading it very much. There is no doubt in my mind but the lack of spiritual training has had a tremendous effect on the youth of our country."

A friend from Indianapolis, Indiana sent us a contribution to cover the cost of placing a number of copies of this issue, together with a copy of Dr. Fleming's Book, "God in our Public Schools," and

WHY I AM AGAINST LIQUOR ADVERTISING

(Continued from page 3)

pect? Day after day, night after night, baseball games, prize fights, boxing matches, and other sporting events; day after day and night after night attractive music, stirring dramas, ear catching appeals, interesting absorbing pictures, popular comedians, and the latest news events are linked up with urgent appeals by radio and TV to drink beverage alcohol and never so much as a hint that it is unlawful for teen-agers to buy it and unwise for them to use it. What is more, over those same radio and television networks, they are shut off from hearing the other side of this beverage alcohol question.

So, again I say, "What else could you expect but a growing juvenile problem of delinquency bound up in beer drinking, wild parties, drinking escapades, and crime that involve the use of beer and other alcoholic beverages?"

Dr. Martin's Book, "Our Public Schools—Christian or Secular" in the hands of leaders who are carrying forward an extensive campaign to place the Bible in the public schools of Indianapolis and vicinity.

We still have a few hundred copies of this issue of The Christian Statesman in our office. We appeal to our readers to help us in placing these copies in the hands of school superintendents, principals and teachers, officers of Parent-Teacher Associations and others interested. The cost is only 15¢ per copy; two copies and upwards at the rate of 12½¢ each. Send your order at once before the supply is exhausted. Address—

National Reform Association
209 Ninth Street
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

DR. PATTERSON ATTENDS LOMA LINDA INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALCOHOLISM

Dr. J. R. Patterson, Executive Secretary of the National Reform Association, returned to Pittsburgh on the morning of June 29 from a trip to Southern California, where he had gone by air to attend a two-week international Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism, held on the campus of the Loma Linda Medical School, and from which he had received both a fellowship and a scholarship.

Dr. Patterson reports that the intensive course presented to more than 100 educators, scientists, clergymen and social workers from 30 states and 15 foreign countries was most informative and challenging. This was the fifth session of the annual school.

Lecturers included Dr. Andrew C. Ivy, famed psychiologist from the University of Illinois; Dr. Haven Emerson, professor emeritus of public health at Columbia University; and more than 20 other leading men in medical and educational life.

The sessions are part of an international program sponsored by many regional and national leaders to help stem the rise of alcoholism.

Others from Pittsburgh who attended the Institute were Mrs. W. J. H. McKnight, Assembly's Committee on Temperance Education of the United Presbyterian Church, and her pastor, Rev. William McLeister, Senior minister, Beverly Heights U. P. Church.

Both Rev. McLeister and Dr. Patterson participated on the programs, Rev. McLeister giving the Religion and Life address on Monday morning, the 21st, and Dr. Patterson the address on Wednesday, the 23rd.

Dr. Ivy, speaking in one of the early lectures, termed alcoholism a major threat to western civilization. There are 7,000,000 excessive drinkers in

the United States alone and the number is increasing at the rate of 250,000 annually, he said.

In pointing out the potency of alcohol as a poison, Dr. Ivy said that five drops of alcohol in one thousand drops of blood is fatal. Impairment in efficiency and alertness begins with a concentration of from 1/10 of a drop to 6/10 of a drop of pure alcohol to 1,000 drops of blood. The range of 1/10 to 6/10ths of a drop is used because no two persons are affected exactly alike: 1/10 of a drop per 1,000 drops of blood for a 170 lb. person would take only 1½ teaspoons of alcohol. A 170 lb. person contains 6,000 c.c. of blood.

The institute maintains that moderate drinking leads many people into alcoholic addiction and that *total abstinence* is the only solution to the problem of alcoholism. "One out of nine moderate drinkers will eventually become an alcoholic," Dr. Ivy warned, "and there is yet no way of predicting who will succumb and who will not."

The Institute called for an aggressive teen-age educational program. More than 50% of the nation's high school youth are already regular drinkers, it was pointed out. More than 70% of the country's alcoholics began drinking in their teens.

Judge Joseph T. Zottoli of Boston drove home the fact that alcohol is no respecter of persons and that the vast majority of alcoholics are not from the inferior types. From all classes of human beings have come those who have been so degenerated by the use of alcohol as to become drunkards, he said. In a certain mental institution it was found that of the total male patients, committed because of alcoholism, 39 were college graduates, 25 had finished high school, 43 were in business, 22 were in the professions, 19 had no occupation (these were children of the idle rich) and five were unclassified. It is pitiful, he said, to see the gradual descent in degradation from high office to the flop-house. The larger field you get of moderate drinkers the larger field of alcoholics.

It was pointed out by Floyd O. Rittenhouse, Dean Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs, Michigan, that the plates for the book, "The Amazing Story of Repeal" by Fletcher Dobyns, had been bought up by the liquor interests and destroyed.

Dr. Patterson left Pittsburgh shortly before midnight on June 11 by TWA Tourist and arrived in Los Angeles before breakfast the next morning. He gave a total of six addresses in behalf of the National Reform Association and preached twice in Los Angeles and Santa Ana, Calif., and in Greeley, Colorado, on the return trip. He returns with many new ideas about how to approach the liquor problem—valuable information both on what to do and what not to do in the war against beverage alcohol. He hopes to be able to incorporate many of these ideas into our National Reform Program in the near future.

A Review of "Our Public Schools-Christian or Secular"

by

BISHOP WILBUR E. HAMMAKER, D.D., LL.D.
of the Methodist Church

The book is truly 'multum in parvo', much in little. I was amazed to find so broad a base and so strong a foundation for the thesis which the good doctor set out to discuss.

The superstructure, which he reared, is impressive in a very big way. Each chapter makes a salient contribution to the enlarged understanding of the public school and its function in the system of life which our country has created and developed. The centrality of education of all the people in a democracy such as ours is set forth in most convincing fashion. The citations in support of that viewpoint are impressive and profoundly challenging.

In fact, all the quotes through the book are unusually apropos and amazingly provocative. If the book had not other values it would be worth reading just to get the wide collection of opinions set forth naturally as the argument proceeds. In a way that is almost overwhelming, the author piles up reasoned judgments of the great and near great. The massing of incisive and challenging citations is a masterly piece of work and lays all of us under debt to Doctor Martin. He has ranged far and wide in gathering other men's grain for his grist.

The examination, section by section, of the Supreme Court decision in the Champaign, Illinois case is worthy of a great jurist. The pertinent comments of the author prepare one for the recent reversal in part that came from the Supreme Court in a case coming up from New York, that involved some similar angles. Se'dom do amateurs achieve such signal success when they venture into fields far from their own. It

seems to this reviewer that no unbiased person can read what Doctor Martin has written anent the famous Champaign Case Decision without being convinced that the Court erred in its findings. But the author's discussion in the chapter under consideration is other and more than negative. It contributes positively and directly to the development of his main argument concerning the need of religion in the whole educational process.

His recurring emphases on the necessity of active implementation of basic and generic religious principles is impressive to the nth degree. He certainly makes his case that education cannot be neutral with reference to morals and religion. One without prepossessions would find it difficult to deny that education, that does not include a moral and religious outlook, will inevitably include a materialistic or communistic outlook. The closeness of the reasoning in this whole area is compulsive and convincing in an extraordinary way.

"The Call to Action' in the final chapter is truly a battle cry. It stimulates—it stirs—it arouses—it compels. One feels that he wants to do something about it. He cannot be content by saying to himself, "That's fine. Doctor Martin has done a good job." He says that, all right. But, in spite of natural reluctance to bestir himself, he says something like this: "I never realized how much is at stake. I must do my bit. I must find my place in the ever-widening line of battle. I dare not sit idly by, while matters of supreme moment are being decided in my community and my country."

RELIGION, MORALITY AND KNOWLEDGE BEING NECESSARY TO GOOD GOVERNMENT, SCHOOLS AND THE MEANS OF EDUCATION SHALL BE FOREVER ENCOURAGED.

—Ordinance of Northwest Territory. Enacted by Continental Congress, 1787; Reenacted by the U. S. Congress, 1791.

THE NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION 209 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

Enclosed find \$_____ for which please send me _____ copies of "Our Public Schools—Christian or Secular at \$2.00 per Copy.

Name _____

Address _____

Hearings On The Bryson and Langer Bills

R. H. MARTIN

Extended hearings were conducted on these identical bills to prohibit the advertising of alcoholic beverages over all media in Interstate Commerce; the former (H.R. 1277) before the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives on May 19-20-21, and the latter before the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the Senate on June 21-24.

The hearing was before the full committee of the House of 32 Members; Chairman, Honorable Charles A. Wolverton of New Jersey. As an evidence of the committee's interest in this bill, for the greater portion of the time at least 20 members of the committee were in attendance.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee was Honorable John W. Bricker of Ohio. The hearing before his committee, however, was conducted by a sub-committee consisting of four members of which the chairman was the only member of the committee who was able to attend.

For the most part, those who gave testimony at both hearings, pro and con, were the same persons and the testimony, likewise, was in large measure the same before both committees. Some 25 witnesses gave testimony on behalf of the bills and fully as many against them.

The testimony of the proponents, representing many Christian denominations and most of the Temperance organizations of the country, other civic and patriotic groups, and outstanding leaders in the field of science and education covered many aspects of the liquor problem, especially those relating to advertising. Special emphasis was placed on the fact that the advertising of beer and wine over the radio and television is focused largely upon the home with the purpose of reaching the mothers and youth of America. This made a deep impression on both committees.

The testimony of Dr. Sam Morris, widely known as the Voice of Temperance in America, that for 20 years he had made constant endeavors to obtain time on the radio to present the arguments for total abstinence and against the traffic in alcoholic beverages as over against the vast volume of glamorous and seductive advertising of the brewers and distillers of their products, and had been refused it and this on the basis of paying for it at the usual rates—this stirred the committees, some of their members asserting that this treatment was utterly unfair and unAmerican.

For this reason, we are publishing Dr. Morris' testimony in this issue of the Christian Statesman, and urge a careful reading and study of it.

Another feature of the testimony of the pro-

ponents before both committees was the number of young men and young women, representing young peoples organizations of churches and other groups, who presented their reasons for the passage of the bills.

This writer presented three points in favor of the bills:

1. There is no natural, inherent right to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes and, consequently, no natural, inherent right to advertise them. Both are "Special Privileges." Consequently in supporting this proposed legislation, we are not attempting to deprive either the liquor interests or the advertisers of these beverages of any right, only a "Special Privilege" and this in the interest of the public welfare.

2. The magnitude (\$260,000,000 spent in advertising in one year) and the false and misleading character of this advertising.

3. The industry's profanation of Christmas.

To increase the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages before Christmas, the liquor industry steps up its glamorous advertising to induce the American people to stock up on their supply for use in the celebration of Christmas. The December 14, 1953 issue of Life Magazine contained 25 pages of alcoholic beverage ads. which brought the magazine a revenue of \$700,000. Thus the liquor industry, to quote Scripture—"Crucifies the Son of God afresh and puts Him to an open shame."

As for the testimony against the Bill, it ran along the same lines as in the hearings on similar legislation before Congress in former years. They tried to make out that the Bill was unconstitutional but we do not think made much impression on the Committee. Dr. Dunford, legal counsel for the National Temperance League, presented the case for the constitutionality of the Bill in an impressive and convincing way. Another argument they stressed was that the sale of liquor is legal, therefore, its advertising is legal and we have no right to oppose it; also that it was a step toward prohibition.

It was noticeable that, we believe without exception, the opposing witnesses were all either engaged in the alcoholic beverage industry or otherwise interested financially in opposing the Bill.

What action these committees will take on this proposed legislation is beyond our knowledge. It is not at all likely that this Congress will pass this legislation. On the other hand, we will be surprised if these committees do not come out with a statement that it is unfair and un-American for the media that advertises alcoholic beverages, particularly radio and television, not to give the "Drys" the opportunity of presenting their side of this issue.

Hearing On The Christian Amendment

R. H. MARTIN

On May 7, 1954, a Hearing was held before the Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate on the proposed Christian Amendment to the United States Constitution to recognize the authority and law of Jesus Christ. Senator Langer chairman of both the Committee and its Subcommittee, presided. Senator Flanders of Vermont had introduced this proposed Amendment in the Senate as Joint Resolution No. 87. The same Resolution had been introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman Harrison of Nebraska, as Joint Resolution No. 289.

It was an informal hearing. At the opening, Senator Langer announced that while giving their testimony witnesses might be interrupted by others to ask questions. The following witnesses gave testimony for the Amendment:

Dr. T. C. McKnight, Chairman of the Christian Amendment Movement which sponsored the introduction of the proposed Amendment. Other members representing this organization follow:

Dr. John Coleman of Geneva College.

Drs. G. M. Robb and Remo Robb; Drs. S. Bruce Willson and R. J. G. McKnight, president and president emeritus respectively of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Mr. Robb, a newspaper correspondent from South Carolina. For the National Reform Association, Dr. R. H. Martin, president, Dr. J. Renwick Patterson, executive secretary; Dr. D. H. Elliott, and Mrs. P. de Shishmareff of the California Branch of the National Reform Association; and Clinton N. Howard of the International Reform Federation.

The testimony of these witnesses covered many phases of the subject in favor of the Amendment and for the most part were to the point and convincing.

Only three witnesses appeared in opposition to the Amendment—Rabbi Isadore Breslau, and Leo Pfeffer, both of the Synagogue Council of America; and David A. Brody, Washington counsel, Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith.

Following the testimony of these opponents, quite a number of questions were submitted to them. We speak of only one: "We know you are against the Christian Amendment, are you also against the recognition of God in any way in connection with our Government? Are you opposed to prayers in Congress, to the recognition of God in our State Constitutions, to the use of the Oath with its appeal to God, to Chaplains in our armed services? In short, do you favor the complete secularization of our Government and Nation?" We were not able to secure definite answers to these questions.

So far as the testimony presented at the hearing is concerned, the advantage was decidedly on the side of those favoring the Amendment. However, in fairness, it should be said that the hearing was no fair test of the strength either of those favoring or opposing the Amendment.

Strange to say, neither those for or against the Amendment had any public notice of the hearing and only a select few knew anything about it until three or four days before the hearing. The credit for even this late notification goes to Mrs. P. de Shishmareff of California, who, because of her interest in the Amendment, made a trip to Washington to see if something could not be done in obtaining a hearing. She went to see Senator Langer to find that a hearing had been arranged for Thursday, May 13. She presented herself at this hearing to find no one but herself and Senator Langer were there. In this situation it was arranged that a hearing would be held on the following Monday. Immediately she sent out a number of telegrams giving notification of the Monday hearing. One came to the writer as president of the National Reform Association. He immediately phoned the headquarters of the Christian Amendment Movement and found they had no information of the hearing. Manifestly in this short space of time, they could do no more than get a few of their leaders on hand for the meeting; nor was there time for notification of those opposed to the measure.

The explanation of this strange combination of circumstances appears to be that the officers of the Christian Amendment Movement had focused their efforts on obtaining a hearing before the Committee of the House of Representatives and had not asked for a hearing before the Senate Committee. In this situation, Senator Langer did not know who to notify and rested with placing the notice in the Congressional Record, which no one apparently had seen.

We are informed that an executive meeting of the full Judiciary Committee was called for June 7 to study the testimony presented at the hearing and decide on what action should be taken. We have no information as to what was done at this meeting.

It is the custom in hearings of this character before Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to publish the testimony given at them and to make it available for public use. We are informed this will be done in this case.

In presiding over this hearing, Senator Langer is to be commended for his fairness, courtesy and kindness to all the witnesses.